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**ALL WINDOWS MANUFACTURED
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Walking tall for the Old Town Party



Chris White of Electric Cabaret stands 12ft tall in Parsons Street, Banbury, during Saturday's annual Old Town Party, which this year had a 1940s theme. Turn to page 3 for more pictures and a full report

Plans for a primary to serve pupils from 1,000-home estate

NEW SCHOOL IS ON ITS WAY

A NEW primary school on a 1,000-home estate is hoped to take pressure off a village school.

On Monday, Oxfordshire County Council cabinet member for education Melinda Tilley approved an outline for applications for those expressing an interest in the school at Longford Park.

It will start the process from September.

The controversial housing

By Sophie Scott

development, also known as Bankside, off Oxford Road to the south of Banbury, was approved by Cherwell District Council in 2009 despite concern that it will further erode the 'green gap' between villages and the town.

Chairwoman of nearby Bodicote's parish council planning committee Pat

Conway said she hoped the new school would take off some of the pressure from the village school, Bishop Loveday.

It is planned that the primary would open in September 2016 and would teach about 315 children. All new schools have to be either academies or free schools.

She said: "Bishop Loveday is an excellent school and

■ continued on page 4

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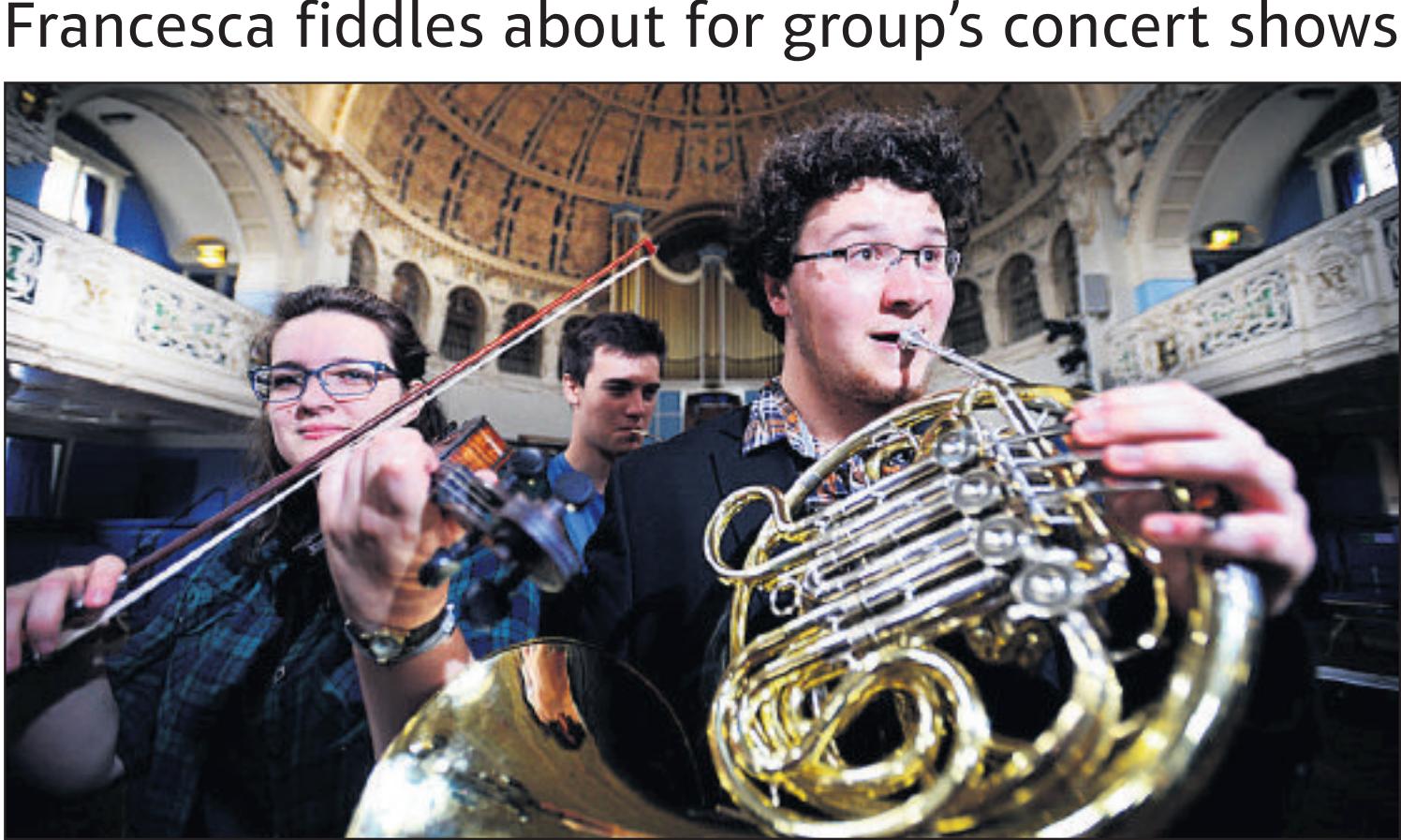
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Francesca Ingall with Louis Stringer, centre, and Chris Mears

STRIKE up the band! These talented youngsters, including Banbury violinist Francesca Ingall, brought sweet music to Oxford Town Hall on Friday.

Choirs from county secondary schools joined Oxfordshire County Youth Orchestra for the event.

The show – put on by Oxfordshire County Council's music service – gave concert-goers a preview of the orchestra's end-of-tour concert at the venue on July 27.

The 80-member orchestra – fresh from a visit to Germany – featured youngsters aged 13 to 19.

Ms Ingall, 19, said: "I am really looking forward to playing, we have a big concert at the end of every term and at Christmas."

The next show will include Shostakovich's 5th Symphony and Strauss's Radetzky March.

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Horton and other hospitals raise revenue

NHS car parking income goes up

By Oliver Evans

ABOUT £3.5m was paid by patients and staff for parking at hospitals across Oxfordshire last year.

New figures reveal that charges at Banbury's Horton Hospital, as well as Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre and Churchill Hospital, brought in 20 per cent more in 2013/14 than the previous year for Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust.

The patient, visitor and staff income – which came ahead of a hike in charges – was up from £2.9m in 2012/13 and £3.1m in 2011/12.

But after costs, the trust recorded a £690,000 surplus to re-invest into services, down from £918,000 in 2011/12 and £897,000 in 2012/13.

A trust spokesman said its surplus fell because of a rise in costs – which include maintenance of surfaces and machines and staff pay.

She said: "Charges are levied to cover the trust's costs in maintaining and managing its car parks."

"If there were no charges or management, the parking facilities would be inundated. There would be nothing to stop people using our car parks as a park-and-ride service

to the city centre. It enables the trust to protect hospital car parks for patient and visitor use."

She said the surplus went back into the trust, but could not reveal any specific things it had paid for.

Charges went up in June for the first time since 2006, with parking for three to four hours rising from £3 to £5.60.

Limited free disabled parking is available and regular attendees at radiotherapy, chemotherapy, renal dialysis, transplant and dermatology can get free parking. Discretionary permits are also available.

The spokesman added: "No further increases are planned at this time."

Hospital parking is free from 8pm to 8am.

Tax Payers' Alliance chief Jonathan

Isaby said: "Taxpayers have already paid for the hospital and the car park, so hospital parking fees should be abolished."

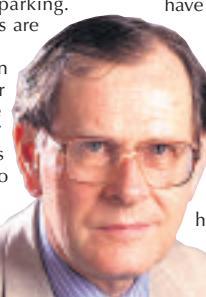
"If they insist on charging, the price of visiting relatives or popping in for a check-up shouldn't go up because the trust has allowed costs to spiral."

Dermot Roaf, pictured, vice chairman of Healthwatch Oxfordshire, the official county NHS watchdog, said: "One has to remember that the reasons for the charges is not to make money but to stop people parking."

"If you don't charge enough you have total chaos."

The JR has 1,624 staff spaces and 743 for the public, while the Horton has 338 for staff and 239 for the public.

Oxfordshire Labour MP Andrew Smith said: "I think most people regard them as an unwelcome but unavoidable fact of life. They know the hospitals are strapped for cash, and that parking elsewhere in Oxfordshire is expensive too."



Back to the future for Old Town Party



Left, Charlotte Saunders of Lydey Chicks; right, Patrick Cooper and Evelyn Green, 92

■ 1940s theme helps to bring in visitors to shops

By Mark McKay

A CAPELLA artists sang wartime songs as a community tried to bring trade to a quiet part of town.

Banbury's Old Town Association took the town back to the 1940s in style with the help of big band and swing music.

The event was organised in partnership with Cherwell District Council to help bring more shoppers to Parsons Street and Church Lane.

It included shopkeepers in period dress, re-enactors from living history groups and women dressed as wartime Land Girls.

Charlotte Saunders was part of Lydey Chicks, a female singing group from the musical theatre company Lynden Players.

She said: "It was a party to celebrate the 1940s and to bring business to the town.

"It was a great atmosphere and

there were a lot of people around so it was good fun.

"I hadn't done any street singing before but it was great fun."

The event marked the 70th anniversary of D-Day, when Allied troops invaded Nazi-occupied Europe in 1944.

There were also balloon modellers, face painters, stilt walkers and street entertainer Rimski playing a bicycle piano.

Patrick Cooper, 68, runs the Old Town Deli and Cafe, in Parsons Street, with his wife Cathy.

He said: "I really enjoyed it and everybody I know did."

"We are all absolutely shattered. It took a bit of preparation but it was really enjoyable. I have never seen Banbury smile so much."



Above, from left, Michael Hallett, Jess Michael, Jeanine Venter and Brian Tegg; left, from left, Andy Zukowski, Peter West and Kieran Moore – The Skeptics; below, stiltwalker Angela Reynolds as a Land Girl



InBRIEF

Cut free after A361 crash

■ BLOXHAM: A person had to be freed from wreckage after a two-car crash at about 11.30pm on Friday.

Firefighters, police and paramedics were all called to the scene on the A361 and the person was freed and taken to the Horton Hospital.

Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service said the front of the car was badly damaged and fire crews cut the doors and the driver's side of the car away to help the paramedics get to the injured person.

South Central Ambulance Service spokeswoman Michelle Archer said the patient's injuries were not thought to be life-threatening.

Sentencing is adjourned

■ BANBURY: A 22-year-old man convicted of causing grievous bodily harm with intent has had his sentencing adjourned.

Aamir Arfi, of Middleton Road, Banbury, was convicted after a trial at Oxford Crown Court last month of carrying out an attack on December 26, 2012.

He has been remanded in custody and will appear for sentence next month after a pre-sentence report has been prepared.

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InBRIEF**Man receives cut to head**

CHIPPING NORTON: A man was taken to hospital in the early hours of Monday after being assaulted.

Police said the 24-year-old had a cut to the head, possibly caused by a sharp object, in Churchill Road at about 12.30am.

The offender is believed to have got into a car and driven off after the attack and no arrests have been made.

The victim was taken to Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital where he was treated for his injuries.

Village cars vandalised

BODICOTE: Thieves have taken hub caps and wing mirrors from cars in the village.

The crimes happened in East Street and Chapel Lane overnight between Sunday and Monday, July 6-7.

Thieves take away Sat nav

BANBURY: Thieves smashed a car window to get inside and steal a Sat nav.

The break-in happened in Griffith Road between 6.30pm on Monday and 8.30am on Tuesday, July 7-8.

Plans for a new primary school welcomed by villagers

■ continued from page 1

because of that a lot of people from across Banbury want to send their children here.

"There are big problems with traffic now in the village and this could alleviate some of that pressure."

Because of a low response to a county council consultation about the new school, the county council is not restricting what type of group – for example faith

organisation or existing providers – could run it.

Ms Conway added: "We have [as a council] discussed this many times and we don't have a preference for any specific type of school."

"When it comes to the detail of the school we don't have any particular view at all."

"We are just glad it is being construct-

ed as our village school is very much full up."

A county council report said there were 25 responses to its consultation, adding that because of the low response rate it was "not possible" to come to a "meaningful common theme".

Eight people who responded to the consultation wanted the school to be run by the local authority, five wanted a secu-

lar school and another five a Church of England school, while there were some people who wanted the new school to provide wraparound care and childcare.

A further report to decide on the provider of the new academy is expected to be submitted to Mrs Tilley and the cabinet next February.

It would then be sent to the Department for Education for approval.



Chipping Norton Town v Oxford United Legends in memory of Shaun Weller, inset

A runaround with legends raises cash for cause

A FOOTBALL match was held in memory of a young man who died of cancer.

Chipping Norton FC were beaten 5-0 by an Oxford United legends team in the third annual game on Sunday to remember Shaun Weller.

Mr Weller, who played for Chipping Norton, died of liver cancer in May 2012, aged 22.

The match in Walterbush Road, which also included a crossbar challenge, penalty

shoot-out, face painting, tombola and raffle, raised £3,000 for the Oxford Cancer Research Centre.

Mr Weller's daughter Tiana-May Weller-Clarke, four, let off a balloon at the start of the game.

Former Oxford United players included Mike Ford, who was sacked as Oxford City manager last summer, Les Phillips, Les Robinson and Chris Allen.

Organiser Lisa Cozier, a friend of Mr

Weller's family, said: "It was a brilliant day with about 500 people turning up, which shows how valued he was."

"All his family were there, including his mum, dad, grandparents and fiancée, and they were very touched by it."

Chipping Norton FC secretary Paul Watson, who played in the match, said: "There was a good crowd and atmosphere. Oxford gave us a runaround but it was brilliant to play in."

■ Medic is in line for payout over false allegations

Surgeon's sacking judged 'wrongful'

A SURGEON is in line for a NHS payout after he was sacked over false allegations he sexually harassed two young trainee doctors.

The consultant – who cannot be named for legal reasons – was dismissed in 2012 after two young doctors said he made sexual advances and begged them to join him at his home after work.

But last week, an employment tribunal judge ruled the accusations were made up and

By Ben Wilkinson

the doctor was both wrongfully and unfairly dismissed by Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust.

Judge Andrew Gumbi-Zimuto, in his ruling, said the doctor was fired following a botched internal investigation by the NHS trust which was only "open to evidence which implicated the claimant, but was closed to the evidence that

might exculpate the claimant".

The consultant told the tribunal in Reading that the allegations were trumped up against him as part of a cost-cutting drive by NHS managers.

He is now suing his former employers to compensate for his loss of earnings. A hearing is set to take place in October.

Judge Gumbi-Zimuto ruled the senior surgeon's "appropriate and genuine" offers to help the new doctors – who he invited for dinner at his flat in

Banbury – were "misunderstood" as sexual advances.

The judge – who didn't hear live evidence from the two women doctors – ruled in favour of the surgeon's claims that his intentions were innocent.

He said: "I have taken into account the claimant's general reputation...and the fact that there are documented instances of the claimant being misunderstood when communicating what appear to be relatively straightforward matters."

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■ Parents of suicide victim teenager criticise mental health provision

'Under-funded services failed our son'

PARENTS of a 14-year-old boy who killed himself by jumping off a multi-storey car park 11 days after being prescribed anti-depressants, have criticised "under-funded" local mental health services.

Douglas Boomer also said he and his wife were not adequately consulted about the risks of their son, Tom, being put on Prozac.

The drug can potentially increase anxiety and the risk of self-harm or suicide, Oxfordshire Coroner's Court heard.

In a joint statement, Douglas and Clare Boomer said: "The under-funding of mental health and youth support budgets means the help of many young people in Oxfordshire in need is simply not available, or comes too late.

"As a society, we have to look at how to help young people such as Tom.

"They are the future and they deserve all the help and support we can give them."

Tom, of Queens Street, Bloxham, jumped from the Bolton Road car park in Banbury at around 12.45am on March 31.

He died from multiple injuries late that afternoon after being transferred to Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital.

By Ben Holgate

Oxfordshire coroner Darren Salter said: "Overall, it seems Tom jumped from the car park, with the intention to take his own life.

"It does seem there were quite a few references to suicide ideation."

Mr Boomer told the court he and his wife were not involved in the decision-making process about Tom taking Prozac, which was prescribed on March 20.

The father said it had been "presented as a done deal".

However, child and adolescent psychiatrist for Oxford Health, Dr Ann Rowlands, who was head of Tom's treatment team, said: "It wasn't a done deal."

She said it was a joint decision by a multi-disciplinary team at the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service in Banbury that had been treating Tom's depression.

Dr Rowlands added she had discussed "the increased risks of self-harm" with his parents.

She added that medical consensus was that Prozac could increase anxiety and the risk of self-harm or suicide among young people

within the first two or three days of use.

Yet the medical evidence suggested "those risks were extremely low".

To counteract this potential side-effect, she initially prescribed half-doses, rising to full doses after five to seven days.

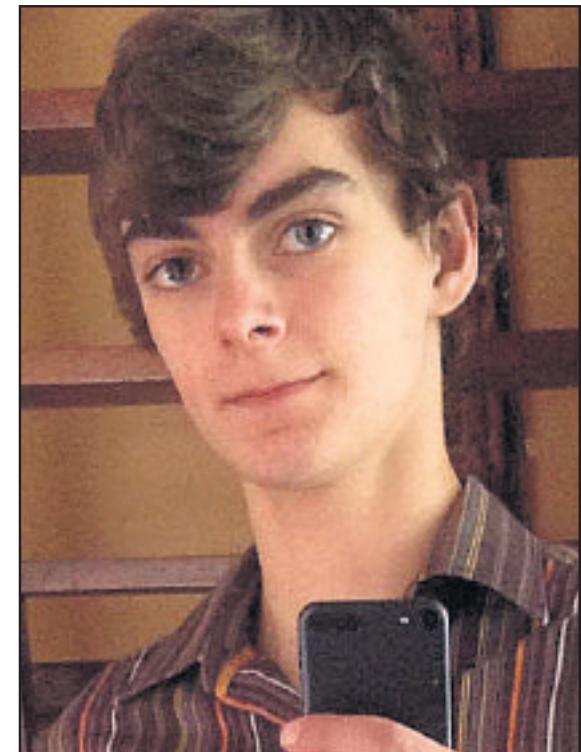
Tom was also "quite upset" at moving schools, from The Warriner School in Bloxham to Chipping Norton School in January 2014.

The Oxfordshire Coroner's Court heard Tom had begun smoking cigarettes and cannabis, and drinking alcohol around the time he switched schools.

However, Dr Rowlands said "Tom's mood had picked up" as a result of treatment and that he was classified as "moderately depressed".

The court heard evidence from a female Chipping Norton School friend, who cannot be named for legal reasons, that Tom had sent her a text message on March 30, the day before he jumped to his death, saying: "I am constantly contemplating suicide."

Mr Salter recorded a verdict that Tom Boomer took his own life.



Victim Tom Boomer, who had been prescribed Prozac



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Move to address concerns

Inspectors rap hospice on records

A HOSPICE leader said it had moved to address inspectors' concerns about how patient records were kept.

Katharine House Hospice chief executive Jane Miles spoke after the Care Quality Commission said action was needed over records.

It met standards in all five other areas – care, cleanliness, medicines, supporting staff and monitoring standards.

The Adderbury hospice provides end-of-life residential care as well as day services, community nursing and bereavement support.

The CQC report said: "People were not protected from the risks of unsafe or inappropriate care and treatment because accurate and appropriate records were not maintained."

This had a "minor impact" on users, it said, as some care records, risk assessments and care plans were incomplete.

By Oliver Evans

For example, one person was at risk of developing pressure ulcers but there was no care plan to provide information on how to avoid them.

Yet it praised the "calm and pleasant" atmosphere and "warm, friendly and polite" nursing staff. One person said: "We cannot express how grateful we are."

In a statement, the chief executive said she was "delighted" with patient comments.

She said: "Unfortunately on the day of the inspection these high standards of care were not reflected in some of the documentation.

"Training was immediately put in place for all members of the clinical staff and new systems have been introduced to quality assure this documentation on an ongoing basis."



Pictured with the bishop, from left, are: Jonathan Jong, Simon Potter, Rob Glenny, John Goodman, George Moody, Peter Hill, Martha Simpson, Janet Radford and Michael Lakey

Deacons all set for county work

THE Bishop of Oxford ordained 19 new clergy at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, earlier this month.

The deacons will be taking up their posts as curates in the Diocese of Oxford – which covers the three counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

Among them, John Goodman is to serve at St Francis, Banbury

Mr Goodman's background is mission work in schools, parishes and street outreach as a youth worker as well as in media and internet-based ministries.

He trained at Trinity College Bristol.

He is married to Camilla, and has two children, Miriam and Samuel.

Martha Simpson will be going to Chipping Norton.

She said: "Before I started training to be a vicar, I worked for the National Trust as a press officer.

"I did mostly wildlife and countryside press, so spent a lot of time in some pretty amazing places.

"My favourite experience was probably spending the evening recording natterjack toad noises at a site near Liverpool."

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■ Worries of drilling effects Council to settle fracking stance

A YEAR on from the Government earmarking parts of north Oxfordshire for fracking, the debate over the controversial form of gas and oil extraction still hasn't died down.

Demonstrators recently put up a fence around the Oxfordshire home of Prime Minister and local MP David Cameron.

And Oxfordshire's Green Party attempted to put a temporary stop to fracking in the county – but this failed because of civic red tape.

Local authorities cannot block applications to frack simply because it is controversial or because they would like a blanket ban. Instead each application must be judged on its individual merits or faults.

Oxfordshire County Council's Green group had attempted to seek the moratorium, a temporary ban, on fracking while the authority considers its position.

By Damian Fantato

Despite the fact that no companies have yet come forward hoping to frack in Oxfordshire, the county council has agreed to hold a special debate on the subject in a bid to decide its stand on the issue.

County councillor David Williams, the leader of the Green group, said: "I am disappointed that the council's legal officers gave us that advice. We are trying now with our legal team to find out what we can do."

"I am going to try everything within the law to see how we can stop fracking in Oxfordshire. Fracking is a dangerous process and it only adds another ten years to fossil fuel projections."

"I think this debate is a great idea because we have got to start this process."

Last year the Government designated a 347 sq mile area over the Oxfordshire and



Buckinghamshire boundary for fracking. It stretches from Kidlington to Milton Keynes and Aylesbury to Banbury.

If the Government gives a company a licence to "frack" in Oxfordshire, then that company has to submit a planning application to Oxfordshire County Council before extraction can actually begin.

Ian Hudspeth, the leader of the county council, said he hoped the debate would be interesting but said the authority was bound to consider any proposals for fracking.

He said: "We cannot put a motion forward that says we

cannot have any fracking in Oxfordshire because our planning policy has got to be based on national planning regulations.

"We have to consider any proposals on their merits. There are local issues we have to take into consideration but each application has to be taken on its merits."

County councillors have agreed to debate the issue of fracking but the date for this debate has not yet been set.

Fiona Taverner, co-ordinator of Oxford Friends of the Earth, said: "What we know is that there is a shale gas seam from

Kidlington to Banbury and we really need to get a better feel for the environmental impact and the human impact.

"I can see that the Government is trying to push through with this and whilst a

moratorium would be good to give us breathing space, we should be looking at alternatives.

"We believe that the Government should be investing in looking towards more renewable solutions."



ABOVE: Flashback to June 4, 2014, and the demonstration staged by Greenpeace outside David Cameron's home

Green county councillor David Williams

Just what is 'fracking'?

HYDRAULIC fracturing, better known as fracking, is a controversial way of recovering gas and oil from shale rock.

It involves drilling into the earth before a high pressure water and chemical mixture is pumped down. This force causes cracks in the rock to open and release reserves of gas or oil.

The process normally involves drilling horizontally into the rock.

Fracking has been used extensively in the USA where it began in 1949 but in the UK the process has been used in the North Sea since the 1970s.

One of the main concerns stems from the chemicals which have to be pumped into the ground to release the gas or oil.

There is a worry that these potentially carcinogenic chemicals could contaminate groundwater, raising the prospect of them making their way into drinking water.

Some people are also concerned that the practice can cause earth tremors.

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InBRIEF**Hospice offers a charity challenge**

■ KATHARINE House Hospice is calling on all local schools and businesses to take part in a charity entrepreneurs' fundraiser. Each team would be given a £50 start-up fund and asked to turn it in to as much money as possible for the hospice – all part of the Karcher Accumulator Challenge. It will run from September until December, when there will be a special awards ceremony at the hospice. The Adderbury-based hospice provides care for people in North Oxfordshire, Warwickshire and Northamptonshire and costs over £3.3m a year to run. To sign up for the Karcher Accumulator Challenge, please call 01295 812161 or email Helen.mariner@khh.org.uk

GBH charge

■ A 19-year-old woman who denies GBH has had her trial date changed. Jade Collison, of Juniper Close, Banbury, denied the offence. She was due to appear at Oxford Crown Court on Monday of last week to start a five-day trial, but the case will now be heard on September 1. Collison was released on bail.

NHS bosses urge people to consider signing up to transplant register

Seven die due to a lack of transplant donors

SEVEN county people died in the last year because of a shortage of organ donations, Oxfordshire health bosses have revealed.

The figure was released to encourage more to join the NHS Blood and Transplant register and discuss wishes with their family.

Latest figures show 66 county people are waiting for a transplant, with most, 54, in need of a kidney.

Others are those waiting for pancreas, heart, lung, liver and small bowel transplants.

Donor recipient and father-of-two Barnaby Kemp, 41, urged people to join the organ donor register.

He got a kidney from father Tim, 76, in 2001 and one from his 45-

By Oliver Evans

year-old sister, Victoria Hellon, in April after his body rejected the first organ.

The coffee firm boss, diagnosed with kidney disorder focal segmental glomerulosclerosis in 1999, said of the seven deaths: "Unfortunately, it is not a surprise."

"You are going on dialysis with considerable illness. Your prognosis is poor at best but I also know people with dialysis can go on for ten, 15 years."

He said: "The people who have donated – and recipients – say it is an incredible experience.

"My sister was hugely moved."

The number of county deaths was for the

2013/14 financial year. In 2009/10 and 2011 to 2013 less than five died with seven in 2010/11.

Further details about the people who died were not available due to patient confidentiality.

Last year, 33 Oxfordshire residents received transplants, compared to 25 in 2009/10 and 26, 25 and 32 in subsequent years.

Latest figures show there are 268,164 people on the register in Oxfordshire, which has a population of about 635,500.

During National Transplant Week families were encouraged to talk to relatives about whether they wished to donate when they die.

Three UK people die a day because of a lack of donors, NHS Blood and Transplant said, but four in ten families do not give permission after death.

Sally Johnson, director of organ donation and transplantation for NHS Blood and Transplant, said: "We know that families are much less likely to allow organ donation to go ahead if they don't know it's what their loved one wanted."

People can become a donor when registering for a driving licence and European Health Insurance card or at their GP surgery.

Kidneys, heart, liver,



ABOVE: Barnaby Kemp, who has received a kidney from his father Tim, right, and his sister, Victoria Hellon

HOW TO SIGN UP

ANYONE of any age or health history can join the NHS Organ Donor online at organdonation.nhs.uk or call 0300 123 23 23 at any time.

Donors can also text SAVE to 62323 or sign up when registering for a driving licence at a GP surgery or for a European Health Insurance card or when applying for a Boots Advantage card.

The NHS says carrying an organ donor card is not necessary but "many people like to keep one to remind themselves of their donation wishes, to help start a conversation with family and friends about their decision to join the register or to encourage others to think about organ donation".

InCOURT

Verdicts from magistrates courts around the county

■ JASON POWELL, 43, of South Street, Middle Barton, admitted failing to notify West Oxfordshire District Council of a change in his circumstances that would affect his entitlement to council tax benefit between March 13, 2006, and March 31 last year and housing benefit between July 27, 2009, and April 19 last year. Community order made with a four-month curfew requirement and told to pay a £60 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

■ LEE BROMLEY, 38, of Thyme Close, Banbury, admitted shoplifting a throw and a mattress enhancer worth a total of £49.98 from Dunelm Mill Stores, Banbury, on April 14. Community order made with a six-month drug rehabilitation requirement and a supervision requirement. Told to pay £49.98 compensation and a £60 victims' surcharge.

■ WAYNE O'DONOVAN, 49, of Merton Street, Banbury, admitted causing criminal damage to a double-glazed window in Knights Road, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, on June 21. Fined £75 and told to pay a £20 victims' surcharge and £30 costs.

■ DAVID HATTON, 32, of Jubilee Court, Banbury, admitted shoplifting meat worth a total of £85 from Co-op in Bassett Avenue, Bicester, on October 10. Told to pay £40 compensation.

■ PAUL NICHOLLS, 47, of Portway, Banbury, admitted possession of Class-A drug cocaine in High Street, Banbury, on June 6. Fined £170 and told to pay a £20 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

■ MATTHEW SHERRY, 31, of Bretch Hill, Banbury, admitted shoplifting meat worth a total of

£28.70 from Farmfoods, The Calthorpe Centre, Calthorpe Street, Banbury, on June 16. Fined £100 and told to pay a £20 victims' surcharge and £45 costs.

■ LISA STEVENS, 30, of Prescott Avenue, Banbury, admitted stealing meat worth a total of £36.80 from Farmfoods, The Calthorpe Centre, Calthorpe Street, Banbury, on June 16. Community order made with a six-month drug rehabilitation order and a supervision requirement. Told to pay a £60 victims' surcharge.

■ MOHAMMED BASHARAT, 35, of West Street, Banbury, admitted having a blade namely a pair of scissors, in a public place, namely Daventry Road, Banbury, on June 28. Given a six-week prison sentence and fined £100. Told to pay a £20 victims' surcharge.

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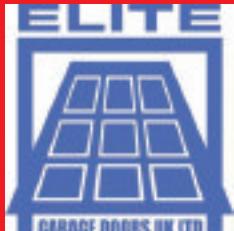
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Sophie Juju of Candy Says

AFTER a warm-up at the Cornbury Music Festival, the Riverside crew are festival-fit for a weekend of entertainment beside the River Evenlode in Charlbury.

The Riverside stage at the Cornbury Music Festival impressed the crowds with performances by some of Oxfordshire's finest bands and visitors can expect even more of the same at the Riverside Festival. The festival is free for all, with the festival hosting more than 40 acts performing across three stages and an activity-packed Kids' Zone. This year promises to be the wildest ever with a programme of fun back-to-nature activities. Younger festival-goers can use their imagination to

create, swords, wands, puppets and even dens from simple sticks with the help of Charlbury's Little Wild Things, while older Riversides can pick up bushcraft skills from The Wilderness Pioneers.

The Kids' Zone also features a willow maze, storytelling, nature trails, music workshops, arts and crafts sessions, outdoor games and a bouncy castle. Youngsters can rehydrate with a healthy drink from the Punch and Juicy bar. Hungry youngsters are invited to sit down at a gourmet pasta banquet on Saturday afternoon; and on Sunday, make-your-own pizzas are on the menu at the Riverside Pizza Parlour.

New this summer is a special area where mums-to-be and new parents can relax, with Chipping Norton midwives on hand to offer advice and support.

Playing the main stage are The Epstein and King B, both hugely popular in the past with the Riverside audience, and ToLiesel and The Knights of Mantis playing at Riverside for the first time. The star booking is probably Candy Says

who wowed last year's Cornbury. The Standard and Dubwiser, who were real crowd-pleasers at this year's Cornbury, add their names to a colourful line-up.

Riverside is famed for showcasing Oxfordshire's music talent and has again invited thriving independent record stores Rapture (in Witney) and Truck (in Oxford) to run the second stage.

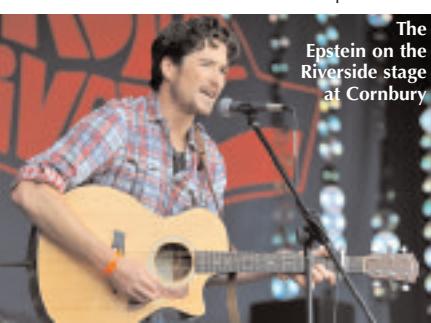
Two acts to look out for are Balloon Ascents, and Sunday night headliners Empty White Circles. Having been forced to abandon stage last year when an almost biblical downpour descended, Empty White Circles promise to create a different kind of storm this year.

A major makeover to this year's stage with a marquee means that all the acts will be able to play come rain or shine.

Riverside Fringe stage should be an intimate setting for acoustic sets, including Celtic harp and Witney's Wychwood Brewery have created another real ale for this year's festival.

Riverside Festival takes place July 26-27 in Charlbury. Visit www.riversidefestival.charlbury.com. There is no camping but visit www.charlbury.info for B&Bs

The Epstein on the Riverside stage at Cornbury



Players welcome the snow

BANBURY Cross Players will bring a different kind of weather to Banbury next week at the opening of their



Claire Taylor, Trish Thompson and Helen Williams in rehearsal

forthcoming production *The Memory of Water* by Shelagh Stephenson.

One of the more unusual items the props team has been tasked with obtaining for the production is snow as the play is set in a Yorkshire coastal town in winter.

This, as well as a coffin (thanks to JM Humphris of Banbury for their assistance with this) have made a change from the normal bedside lamps and crockery for the BCP props team.

The Memory of Water is the story of three sisters, returning to

their childhood home where they are making final preparations for their mother's funeral. Each sister has different memories of the same events from their childhood, causing them to bicker about whose memories are true.

Performances run from July 16-19 at 7.45pm at The Mill Arts Centre, in Banbury.

Tickets are available online at www.themillartscentre.co.uk or from The Mill Box Office on 01295 279002. For details contact Linda Shaw on 07802 301726 or email mail@banburycrossplayers.co.uk



The Kids' Zone last year

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and Trevor is finding that his approach is a major factor

in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show

how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

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ONE LOVE Warm-hearted, caring and selfless Aylesbury female, 52, 5'6", searching for an energetic, trustworthy male, good sense of humour a must, for friendship and romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 155653

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GENUINE PARTNER WANTED! Sincere, loyal, Christian Banbury female, 46, searching for a loving, kind-hearted and honest man, for friendship initially and hopefully a romantic relationship in the future. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 154128 or send a text to 80360

CATCH A FALLING STAR Caring, loving, loyal, 47 year old Buckingham female, 5'4", curly, brown eyes, enjoys going to pubs, dancing, music, WLM a loyal, independent male, for companionship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 167026 or send a text to 80360

HOPES TO HEAR FROM YOU Friendly, kind, caring Bedford female, 54, attractive, 5'2", cuddly, enjoys theatre, historical places, seaside and writing, seeks an easygoing male, 45-56, with own car, for companionship and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 169512 or send a text to 80360

IT COULD BE US Spiritual, genuine Didcot woman, 48, attractive, fun, have grown up children, likes clubs, cafes, music, films, walking and reading, seeking a caring and optimistic man, for friendship first. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123828 or send a text to 80360

ASK ME OUT! Easy-going, independent, 48 year old Luton female, blonde, blue eyes, love walks, pubs, meals out, positive people, cinema, WLM a fit positive male, to get to know with views to start a relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 167026 or send a text to 80360

WITNEY FRIENDSHIP OR MORE Friendly Christian lady, 54, curly blonde, own car, enjoys indoor and outdoor life, cooking and bowling, looking for someone with similar interests, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 172746

EVERYONE NEEDS SOMEONE Loving, professional, honest Bedford woman, 60, enjoys outdoor sports, singing, the gym and home life, would like to meet a man, with similar interests, for friendship and possibly more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 150962 or send a text to 80360

ANYONE INTERESTING? Happy, 55 year old Luton female, widow, enjoys holidays and travel, cooking and entertaining. Would like to meet a happy, jolly male, with a good sense of humour, to enjoy evenings in and out. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 167294 or send a text to 80360

A HEART FULL OF LOVE Genuine, trustworthy, 57 year old Milton Keynes female, enjoy gardening, going out and staying in. Would like to meet a nice male for company, friendship, fun times and maybe a relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 174367 or send a text to 80360

QUIET AT FIRST Quiet, affectionate, black Luton woman, 49, would like to meet a happy, stable, loving man, for companionship and a little bit of romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 149025

BUBBLY WOMAN Bubbly, fun, lady, 50, short hair, slim build, blue/green eyes, likes pubs, clubs and watching tv, enjoys gardening, bike riding, looking for a man to build friendship and love. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 152675

MEET AND GREET Slim, honest Milton Keynes female, 51, 5'3", enjoys keeping fit and all the normal things, searching for a decent, romantic man, to share loving times and future happiness. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 172417 or send a text to 80360

LET'S LIVE A LITTLE Kind, 51 year old Milton Keynes female, 5'3", blue eyes, blonde hair, like going out for meals, cosy drinks, bands and cosy nights in. Seeks a sincere, honest, reliable male to get to know. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 174590 or send a text to 80360

I CAN MAKE YOU SMILE Sensitive, loving Abingdon female, 51, Brunette hair, good sense of humour, enjoys dancing, music, current affairs, seeking a similar male, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 141600

ONE LOVE Warm-hearted, caring and selfless Aylesbury female, 52, 5'6", searching for an energetic, trustworthy male, good sense of humour a must, for friendship and romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 155653

START LIVING AGAIN Friendly, fun Oxfordshire divorced mum, 53, 5'7", grown up children, looking for love again and someone to share life with. Is the right man out there for me? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 798804

NEXT CHAPTER Positive, endearing and happy-go-lucky Banbury female, 53, divorced, good sense of humour and positive, would like to meet a reserved, mellow man, to share the future with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 172474 or send a text to 80360

MAKE A REAL MATCH Informed, outspoken and stylish Bedford female, 46, would like to meet a tidy, articulate gent, for caring and happy times together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 171327 or send a text to 80360

START LIVING INDEPENDENT Independent, insightful and focused Aylesbury female, 54, searching for a calm, understanding male, to build a lasting, happy future with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161079

ARE YOU MY MAN? Sincere, 54 year old Bedford lady, 5'3", Brunette, slim, enjoys eating in and out, walks, places of interest and swimming. Would like to meet a genuine male, aged 55-58, for friendship and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 149039 or send a text to 80360

SIMILAR TO MYSELF? Cuddly, honest, witty woman, 59, 5'3", N/S, blonde hair, likes swimming, the theatre and weekend breaks away, seeking a humorous, reliable male, with similar interests, to share a life together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 153853 or send a text to 80360

ARE YOU OUT THERE? Kind, 59 year old Abingdon female, 5'2", red hair, medium build, love gardening, DIY, fun cosy nights in and cats. Seeking a genuine man with a good sense of humour for a romantic relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 173744 or send a text to 80360

DO IT TOGETHER Down-to-earth, retired Bicester lady, 68, enjoys car boot sales, bingo, eating out and generally always up for a laugh, would like to meet a kind, caring gent, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 158521 or send a text to 80360

ADVENTURE AHEAD Loving, caring, 68 year old Aylesbury lady, widow, like socialising, holidays, camping and meals out. Would like to meet a fun-loving gentleman with a vest for life, for friendship and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 173593 or send a text to 80360

FOR TWO'S Genuine, 60 year old Witney lady, loves going to concerts and listening to music. Would like to meet a fun-loving gentleman with a vest for life, for friendship and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 169512 or send a text to 80360

EVERYONE NEEDS SOMEONE Loving, professional, honest Bedford woman, 60, enjoys outdoor sports, singing, the gym and home life, would like to meet a man, with similar interests, for friendship and possibly more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 172746 or send a text to 80360

SEEKING THE RIGHT MAN Separated, attractive Witney female, 62, 5'2", curly, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 182889 or send a text to 80360

THE LONG TERM Separated, easygoing Oxon female, 62, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 174249 or send a text to 80360

A FUTURE FILLED WITH LAUGHTER Bubbly, caring Oxfordshire female, 50, short hair, slim build, blue/green eyes, likes pubs, clubs and watching tv, enjoys gardening, bike riding, looking for a man to build friendship and love. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 171086 or send a text to 80360

SOMETHING LASTING Perceptive, polite and romantic Bampton woman, 57, my children and grandchildren are a huge joy in my life. I would like to find an energetic, consistent man, to share the future with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 167144 or send a text to 80360

AN ENCHANTED EVENING Intelligent, smartly dressed, 64 year old Witney female, widow, who enjoys socialising, theatre, cinema and holidays. Seeks a male to spend the evenings and weekends with who has similar interests. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147290 or send a text to 80360

CARIN & CONSIDERATE Kind, hearted, active Oxford male, 38, enjoys staying fit, playing sports and fine dining with friends and family, would like to meet a similar female for companionship and lots. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 170899 or send a text to 80360

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SHARE THE LOVE Straight-forward Aylesbury female, 58, enjoys walks, shopping and all the usual things in life, searching for a normal, friendly man, to share company and a happy future. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 172351 or send a text to 80360

DESCRIBE YOURSELF Fun loving Bedford male, 65, open minded and active, likes cosy times in, social drinks, reading and music, would like to meet a male, for friendship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 154642 or send a text to 80360

RELY ON ME Happy, friendly, Christian woman, 67, enjoys long walks along the coast, puzzles and 60s music, looking for a N/S, Christian man, to share friendship and a little bit of romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 149039 or send a text to 80360

TAKE A GAMBLE Active, outgoing, blue-eyed male, 42, 5'10", blonde, non-smoker, enjoys motorbikes, clubs, cinema, meals and more, searching for a loving woman, to share friendship and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 171063 or send a text to 80360

PERFECT HARMONY Fun-loving, easygoing and tactile Witney biker, 42, 6'2, stocky build, shaven head and goatee, would like to meet a fun-loving, cheeky lady, to share a happy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 152776 or send a text to 80360

EYE TO EYE Honest, caring, reliable, 54 interests are walking, country side, coastal walks, animals, eating out, cosy nights in, history, DIY, cooking, seeking a female for a long-term relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 171063 or send a text to 80360

ALL TO LOVE Kind and caring Oxfordshire male, 42, with personality, would like to find a warm-hearted, genuine, caring woman, to share laughter and enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 144093 or send a text to 80360

THE START OF SOMETHING NEW? Mature Oxford male, 55, 5'8", green eyes, N/S, likes music, walking and keeping fit. GSOH, would like to meet a nice, bright lady, for fun times and see where that leads to. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 158142 or send a text to 80360

SOON LIKE YOU? Tall, handsome, witty Abingdon male, 63, slim build, enjoys DIY, gardening, travel and walking, seeking a slim, petite, adventurous female, for good company and to enjoy a happy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 170118 or send a text to 80360

MAKING OUT Bright, humorous, easygoing Witney male, 58, good sense of humour, enjoys dancing, would like to meet a friendly lady, for fun and more, searching for a serious-minded lady, for a loving and supportive relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159203 or send a text to 80360

LUCKY IN LOVE? Oxford male, 47, 5'9", medium build, own flat and car, genuine and caring. Looking for a slim, mature lady, 50-62, to enjoy days out, seaside and nights in and out together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 174567 or send a text to 80360

AN ENCHANTED EVENING Understanding, caring, 47 year old Oxford male, 5'11", brown hair, blue eyes, enjoys walks in the countryside, old pubs, fitness, sports. Seeks an affectionate female, 40-50, for a relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 170899 or send a text to 80360

CARIN & CONSIDERATE Kind, hearted, active Oxford male, 38, enjoys staying fit, playing sports and fine dining with friends and family, would like to meet a similar female for companionship and lots. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147290 or send a text to 80360

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MAKE MY DAY Laid-back, caring, 47 year old Oxford male, 5'11", slim-medium build, blue eyes, short hair, enjoy gardening, cooking, sports, walking and the coast. Seeks a lady, 35-50, with similar interests. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 174616 or send a text to 80360

MADE FOR EACH OTHER Happy-go-lucky Abingdon-on-Thames male, 48, 5'9", medium build, short hair, likes walks, cinema, social drink, quiet pubs, seeking a nice woman, for friendship and hopefully more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101122 or send a text to 80360

CARING NATURE Friendly, adventurous and vibrant Witney male, 60, would like to meet a bubbly, observant lady, for good times, great company and maybe more, if there is a spark. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 116661 or send a text to 80360

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL Kind, caring down-to-earth Thame male, 48, enjoys music, country walks, cooking, reading, films, seeking a kind, sincere, slim female, 25+. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 113747

LOVE TO HAVE A LAUGH Hardworking Oxford male, 52, 5'7", brown hair, own flat, likes gardening, cinema, meals out, travel, country side and 60s music, seeks genuine lady, for friendship leading to more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 121027 or send a text to 80360

LOVE THE ONE YOU'RE WITH Friendly, warm-hearted Abingdon male, 52, good sense of humour, would like to meet a caring, well-mannered girl, to enjoy good times together. Is you're looking for true love then get in touch. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 173013 or send a text to 80360

KEEPING WITH THE TIMES Happy go lucky, blue-eyed Banbury male, 61, 5'6", slim build, likes gardening, cinema, meals out, travel, country side and 60s music, seeks genuine lady, for friendship maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 131204 or send a text to 80360

OPEN YOUR HEART Cheerful, slim Banbury male, 71, 5'6", GSOH, likes sport, walks, animals and cosy evenings in, searching for a decent, positive lady, to settle down and share a happy future. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 170930 or send a text to 80360

SEE FOR YOURSELF Youthful, faithful, liberal and sympathetic Middlesbrough male, 73, looking for a sweet, sensitive woman, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 141502 or send a text to 80360

SOUL TO SOUL Fun, talkative and friendly Oxford guy, 79, likes social drinks from time to time, just hoping to meet a bubbly, confident lady, to build a loving, lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140937

DECISION IS YOURS Honest, easygoing Yorkshire man living in Banbury, 61, 5'6", slim build, self-employed, likes gardening, cooking, cinema, travel, countryside, seeks genuine lady, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 145981

PERFECT HARMONY Fun-loving, easygoing and tactile Witney biker, 42, 6'2, stocky build, shaven head and goatee, would like to meet a kind, caring gent, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 171063 or send a text to 80360

POSITIVE ATTITUDE Fit Latino male, 62, looking for someone who can share fun, life in general and hopefully love with, Oxford. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140937 or send a text to 80360

SCRUBS UP WELL! Optimistic, positive, 62 Witney male, 42, with a good sense of humour. Having diverse interests and still scrubbing up well, seeking an attractive lady who is also active and enjoys life. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161846 or send a text to 80360

THE START OF SOMETHING NEW? Mature Oxford male, 55, 5'8", green eyes, N/S, likes music, walking and keeping fit. GSOH, would like to meet a nice, bright lady, for fun times and see where that leads to. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 170118 or send a text to 80360

IT'S YOUR MOVE Outgoing, energetic and warm-hearted Oxford male, 62, likes nights out, pubs, clubs, live music and loads more, simply searching for an outgoing, older man, for fun times, laughter and lots more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 103263 or send a text to 80360

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LONG TERM TOGETHERNESS Loyal, genuine, solvent Oxfordshire male, 68, 5'9", loves music, and exploring new ideas, seeks genuine and feminine lady, 60-70, to share and explore interesting times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117916 or send a text to 80360

PASSION FLOWER Creative, instinctive, helpful Witney male, 60, looking for an approachable, helpful female, to share the future with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101122 or send a text to 80360

CARING NATURE Friendly, adventurous and vibrant Witney male, 60, would like to meet a bubbly, observant lady, for good times, great company and maybe more, if there is a spark. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137812

LONG LASTING HAPPINESS Solvent, retired business gent, North Oxfordshire, 68, own home and car etc, with a love of cinema, travel and new adventure, seeks a nice, loyal, feminine lady, for companionship and those who know? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115194

KEEPING WITH THE TIMES Happy go lucky, blue-eyed Banbury male, 61, 5'6", slim build, likes gardening, cinema, meals out, travel, country side and 60s music, seeks genuine lady, for friendship maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132104 or send a text to 80360

OPEN YOUR HEART Cheerful, slim Banbury male, 71, 5'6", GSOH, likes sport, walks, animals and cosy evenings in, searching for a decent, positive lady, to settle down and share a happy future. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 170930 or send a text to 80360

SEE FOR YOURSELF Youthful, faithful, liberal and sympathetic Middlesbrough male, 73, looking for a sweet, sensitive woman, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 141502 or send a text to 80360

SOUL TO SOUL Fun, talkative and friendly Oxford guy, 79, likes social drinks from time to time, just hoping to meet a bubbly, confident lady, to build a loving, lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140937

DECISION IS YOURS Honest, easygoing Yorkshire man living in Banbury, 61, 5'6", slim build, self-employed, likes gardening, cooking, cinema, travel, countryside, seeks genuine lady, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 14598

It's metal mayhem again with return of the robots

TRANSFORMERS: AGE OF EXTINCTION (12A, 165mins) Sci-Fi/Action/Thriller/Romance. Mark Wahlberg, Nicola Peltz, Jack Reynor, Stanley Tucci, Kelsey Grammer, TJ Miller and the voices of Peter Cullen, John DiMaggio, Ken Watanabe, John Goodman, Frank Welker. Director: Michael Bay.

FMICHAEL Bay, director of *Transformers: Age Of Extinction*, were immortalised on-screen as a "robot in disguise", his mechanised alter-ego might be Maximus Kaboom.

For two decades, the Californian film-maker has been elevating wanton destruction to a blockbusting art form.

In *Armageddon*, he pitted Bruce Willis and Ben Affleck against a gigantic asteroid on a collision course with earth and orchestrated destruction to the sonic booms of Aerosmith's *I Don't Want To Miss A Thing*.

The Japanese attack on *Pearl Harbor* provided Bay with a turbulent backdrop to his 2001 war opus.

Since 2007, he has been ensconced in the Transformers fold, bringing bombast to live-action adventures of the bestselling Hasbro toys.

This fourth instalment is crammed with Bay's usual visual excesses and motifs, including gleaming cars and a pouting female protagonist in hilariously short denim shorts.

Five years have passed since the *Battle Of Chicago*, which provided the pyrotechnic-laden climax to *Transformers: Dark Of The Moon*.

The alliance between humans and robots lies in tatters and an elite CIA unit named Cemetery

Wind under the control of Harold Attinger (Kelsey Grammer) hunts Transformers without mercy.

On a family ranch, struggling inventor Cade Yeager (Mark Wahlberg) discovers that a rusty truck he has just purchased is battle-scarred Optimus Prime (voiced by Peter Cullen).

Agents from Cemetery Wind descend on the homestead and Optimus protects Cade, his daughter Tessa (Nicola Peltz), her secret boyfriend Shane (Jack Reynor) and Cade's mechanic sidekick Lucas (TJ Miller) in the ensuing gun fight.

The humans join forces with Optimus to reunite the Autobots – Bumblebee, Crosshairs (John DiMaggio), Drift (Ken Watanabe) and Hound (John Goodman) – and the rebellion plots a swift response to inventor Joshua Joyce (Stanley Tucci), who has created his own Transformer army led by the mighty Galvatron (Frank Welker).

Transformers: Age Of Extinction opens with Cade and Lucas scouring an abandoned cinema for scrap metal.

"Sequel and remakes – bunch of crap!" growls the grizzled owner as he surveys memorabilia from bygone blockbusters that litter the tumble-down building.

Never has a truer word been spoken in one of Bay's exercises in hyperkinetic style over substance.

Screenwriter Ehren Kruger repeatedly defies logic to contrive outlandish scenarios for pyrotechnics and carnage, including an alien spaceship that sucks up metal then drops magnetically charged cars and boats on to terra firma.



A scene from *Transformers: Age Of Extinction*. Pictured, from left, Hound, Bingbing Li plays Su Yueming, Stanley Tucci plays Joshua Joyce, Bumblebee, Jack Reynor plays Shane Dyson, Nicola Peltz plays Tessa Yeager, Mark Wahlberg plays Cade Yeager, Optimus Prime, Drift, and Crosshairs

Picture credit: PA Photo/ Paramount Pictures UK

Wahlberg punches and leaps through gaping plot holes, trotting out the concerned father routine as younger members of cast perform gravity-defying gymnastics to emerge from clouds of razor-sharp shrapnel without a graze or smudged lip-gloss.

Action sequences are visual vomit: an incomprehensible spew of glistening metal and explosions that hurt the eyes, especially in the large-scale IMAX format.

"The war will be over soon," barks Grammer's Machiavellian politician during a momentary lull.

The buttock-numbing 165-minute running time says otherwise.

CakeWhat's on

Music

FRIDAY: New Inn, Main Rd, Middleton Cheney: Nikki Petherick. Performing a mixture of covers old and new. Free entry. 9pm. 01295 710399.

Sports and Social Club, Worton Road, Middle Barton: Country Music Weekend.

Friday, 8pm – Johnny Williams and Lynnette Marie. Entry £8 per person

Saturday. Opens noon. 1pm – J C King. Entry £16 per person. 8.30pm Ian Highland. Entry £10 per person

Sunday. 1pm – Travis Logan Entry £16 per person. 8pm – Gone Country. Entry £10 per Person. Weekend Ticket £35 per person.

Catering van on site all weekend, Bar open for refreshments. Camping is available. Contact Pat Denton 01869 346153.

FRI-SUN: Thamesfest: The Rock of Gibraltar, Enslow, Bletchingdon. Thamesfest is an annual

Oxfordshire Music festival featuring acts from Oxfordshire, UK in general and international acts. 07825 351224. 12pm Free

SATURDAY: Lampit Arms, Tadmarton: Storytellers. Duo with rock and pop covers. Free admission. 9pm. 01295 780070.

Theatre

Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury: Jul 17-19, *The Memory of Water*. Banbury Cross Players. 7.45pm. £9 (£8 concs Thurs only). Jul 23, *Only Fools and Boycie*. Anecdotes from actor John Challis. £7.30pm, £16.

The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: Jul 18, And Finally...The Best of Phil Collins. Tribute act. £7.45pm. £15 (£13 concs).

Events

SATURDAY: Barbecue and entertainment: Lake House Residential Home, The Green,

Adderbury. With Hardwick Community Dancers and singer Kevin Whitehead. 3pm to 6pm. Call 01295 811183

SUNDAY: Lily Festival and fair: Evenley Wood Garden, Mill Lane, Brackley. Plant nurseries and craft stalls will be in the woodland marquee along with refreshments in the pavilion as the garden celebrates its lily collection. 11am-5pm. 07776 307849. £5, children £1

Cinema

Odeon, Horsefair, Banbury: Please call the cinema for information. Box office 0871 224 4007.

The Theatre, 2 Spring Street, Chipping Norton:

In Secret, 15, Sat 7.30pm. Theatre screening (live): *Monty Python Live* (mostly), Sun 7pm. Box office 01608 642350 (Mon-Fri 10-6pm, Sat 10-2pm).

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Banbury stay at the top

Thrilling last-over victory thanks to Manley's batting

BANBURY maintained their position at the top of the Serious Cricket Homes Counties Premier League Division 1 table with a sensational two-wicket victory over lowly Gerrards Cross on Saturday.

Going into the final over, both sides could have won the game, with Banbury needing 12 runs and Gerrards Cross two wickets for victory.

But No 10 Liam Manley ensured there was only going to be one outcome, hitting the first ball for four, and then smashing the next for six.

He then took a single off the third, before Ashley Blanchard nudged another single to see his side home in a thrilling finish.

It looked a tough ask for Banbury as the visitors defied their lowly position in the table with a fine batting display.

Opener Matthew Watson led the way with 77 from 125 balls, before an unbroken fifth-wicket stand of 100 between Daniel Hampton (81 no) and Sam Westaway saw Gerrards Cross post

257-4. Hampton's knock came off 77 deliveries and contained 10 fours and sixes.

Luke Ryan was the pick of the Banbury bowlers with 3-70 from 21 overs.

Dan Harris and Craig Haupt got Banbury off to a flying start in reply, putting on 124 before Harris was bowled by Izhan Khan for 61.

Haupt fell two runs later for 63 and when Nathan Hawkes, Jonny Cater and Richard West were all dismissed in quick succession, Banbury were up against it at 158-5.

However, Ryan and Ian Tew put on 46 for the sixth wicket to give them hope.

Ryan went on to plunder 51 from 26 balls, with six fours and two sixes, before being bowled by Vikram Banerjee with the score on 235.

When Ollie Wright was out for a second-ball duck, victory looked unlikely.

But Blanchard and Manley came together to produce their heroics and seal a thrilling victory and maintain Banbury's 14-point lead over High Wycombe.

GERRARDS CROSS

M Anwar c Tew b Ryan	28
M Watson lbw West	77
D Solway lbw Ryan	1
P Patel c West b Ryan	34
D Hampton not out	81
S Westaway not out	27
Extras	9
Total (4 wkts, 64 ovs)	257

Fall: 1-74, 2-77, 3-143, 4-157.

Bowling: Blanchard 8-2-33-0, Manley 4-0-15-0, Wright 6-1-22-0, Phillips 15-1-66-0, Ryan 21-2-70-3, West 10-0-43-1.

BANBURY

D Harris b Khan	61
C Haupt st Solway b Banerjee	63
N Hawkes c D Hampton b Khan	10
J Cater c Hoddle b Khan	19
R West run out	3
I Tew c T Hampton b Banerjee	21
L Ryan b Banerjee	51
A Blanchard not out	12
O Wright c Solway b Banerjee	0
L Manley not out	12
Extras	6
Total (8 wkts, 55.4 ovs)	258

Fall: 1-124, 2-126, 3-151, 4-157, 5-158, 6-214, 7-235, 8-235.

Bowling: T Hampton 15-2-56-0, Hoddle 9-3-33-0, Banerjee 12-1-63-4, D Hampton 9-4-2-54-0, Khan 10-0-48-3.

● Banbury 25pts, Gerrards Cross 11



HERO: Banbury's Liam Manley

HOW THEY STAND

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	A	Bon	Pts
Banbury	10	5	1	1	1	17	148
High Wycombe	10	4	1	1	1	17	134
Tring Park	10	4	2	2	2	15	131
* Henley	10	4	0	2	1	12	129
Slough	10	4	0	2	1	12	126
Burnham	10	4	0	3	2	17	120
Oxford	10	3	1	4	2	16	109
Aston Rowant	10	2	2	3	0	36	105

Gerrards Cross	10	1	1	6	1	38	73
Harefield	10	0	0	7	1	40	58

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	A	Bon	Pts
Reading	10	6	1	0	1	9	165
Horspath	10	5	0	3	1	20	147
Shipton	10	4	0	3	2	20	133
Dinton	10	3	0	3	1	21	115
Finchampstead	10	3	1	3	1	24	112
Cove	10	3	2	1	1	10	110
Amersham	10	2	1	5	0	49	109
Falkland	10	2	1	4	1	41	106

Great & L Tew	10	3	0	5	1	26	103
Chesham	10	2	1	5	1	31	86

* 2 pts deducted

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ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

Worry has become less frequent and you start to look at the positive things in your life instead of just the negative. Use Wednesday and Thursday to deal with financial issues you've been sweeping under the carpet. Your ruling planet Mars makes it possible for you to cover over a mistake in business with the gift of clever talking. Ring now so I can show you how great your future can be.

0906 585 4360

TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

You seem to be remembering your past through rose coloured spectacles. If you're one of the Taurians who is thinking of getting in touch with an ex, then think again. If they were right for you then, they would be in your life now. Emotions work overtime and you've changed. Get to know what you want and needs are before you decide anything my friend. Ring now so we can talk.

0906 585 4361

GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

Your ability to mix well with people from all walks of life is about to pay dividends as you act as the middle man in a deal which can improve both money and reputation. You're not feeling in control of your personal life, but you would if you sat down and talked about how you really feel, instead of skirting around the subject. Ring now to hear how Venus brings instant attractions.

0906 585 4362

CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

Expect to find yourself in demand over the coming seven days as the rest of the zodiac desire and crave your company. You're still feeling the pain of a past event, but don't. Let it go. It's no use dwelling on things you can do nothing about, is it? The future is where your path is headed and decisions you reach this week ensure you'll be dreaming big. Ring now to hear about tomorrow today.

0906 585 4363

LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

Try to leave on time for meetings or appointments this week as first impressions will count for everything. Those you meet in the coming seven days have more of an affiliation with your future than you could possibly imagine. Going over old work is also a good idea as you start to get proof that hard work can pay back dividends. Ring now to hear whose flirtations could turn serious.

0906 585 4364

VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

There are some big decisions which need to be made in your life and you are the only one who can reach the final decision. You're not feeling as strong as you should know, but the sooner you make your choice, the happier you will feel and the more at peace you will be. Use Tuesday for 'that' confrontation when the stars will be giving you the upper hand. Ring now to find out about your future.

0906 585 4365

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

You're starting to come to terms with something that happened, which also means you're beginning to move on. I like the new you who has been evolving and I don't want you to try to conform to please others. Embrace you. It's what will lead you to the happiness I know you seek. A great week to take tests or exams or commit to study. Ring now to hear how Mercury promises exciting travel.

LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

Family think they know what's best for you, but the truth of the matter is that they don't really know the full story of what is going on in your life, do they? Libra? By Thursday you'll feel like coming clean and, chances are, you will. Everything changes if you do, but your chart shows that this is what's been needed all along. Ring now so we can talk about your future together.

0906 585 4366

SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

Finances come under pressure and you have to lay out money you would rather not use. This seems unavoidable, so rather than stress about money you won't have, why not work on how you can earn or save in other areas. Relationships come into focus on Friday when you will be deciding whether to make things more serious or to part ways. Ring now for more on this dramatic week.

0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

Your energy levels return and issues which you could not deal with last week now seem like water off a duck's back. Dig out that paperwork you were ignoring at the beginning of the month, because you're ready to sort issues out in your favour. Check your calendar. You're likely to have forgotten an important event or birthday. Ring now so I can explain why this is such a special month.

0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

Home affairs come under the spotlight and if you are not happy with the way you are living then you will be doing something about it. Try to be more honest with yourself about your incomings and outgoings. It's the only way you'll get a realistic view of what you can and cannot afford to do. Ring now to hear why you can afford to lay your heart on the line in love this week.

0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

Work you do this week will help you get back on track towards the future of your dreams. The stars are hooking you up with contacts who can help to turn your dreams into a reality. Rumours about someone from your past are unlikely to be true, so try not to get too upset or worked up. Give me a ring to hear why it's worth finishing half done projects and promises this week.

0906 585 4370

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

You're starting to come to terms with something that happened, which also means you're beginning to move on. I like the new you who has been evolving and I don't want you to try to conform to please others. Embrace you. It's what will lead you to the happiness I know you seek. A great week to take tests or exams or commit to study. Ring now to hear how Mercury promises exciting travel.

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Turbo Astra poised to deliver real kick

By David Duffy

Very few cars genuinely look as if they are about to burst into life when quietly parked on your driveway — but the Astra GTC is one of them.

The sleek three-door, with its low, wide stance and rakish lines, positively bubbles with nervous energy, even a standstill.

Lined up against dynamically-styled rivals such as Volkswagen's Scirocco and Renault's Mégane Coupé, the GTC pitches in with a competitive price tag with the range starting at about £19,000.

The third body style to come off the so-called Delta platform, following the hatchback and sports tourer, Vauxhall says the only exterior design elements the GTC shares with its siblings are door handles and the roof aerial.

Vauxhall's signature 'blade' design, a crisp line that sweeps up at the front of the door, is now similar to the Insignia, but runs the opposite way to other Astras. A second line strikes through the door handle, stretching to the rear, while a third line follows the roof's profile, guiding the eye to the spoiler.

At the front, slim, 'eagle-eye'-style headlamps have wing-shaped daytime running lights and the beefy rear gives the car imposing proportions. But the real appeal of the GTC

runs far deeper than its muscular looks, with a chassis specially tuned to cope with both high power output and the challenging and less-than-perfect roads that UK drivers have to deal with. Engineers figured that a car that works well coping with the UK's blend of undulations, cambers, rough surfaces, blind apexes and crests would perform even better in other markets.

Much of the development centred on the introduction to the GTC's suspension of Vauxhall's HiPerStrut, which is based on the system seen on the 325 horsepower Insignia VXR. In a nutshell, it helps tame a powerful front-wheel-drive car, delivering calm, precise steering, with improved grip during cornering, especially at higher speeds.

The test model, with its 195 horsepower 2.0-litre BiTurbo diesel engine, delivers a proper driver-oriented feel, enhanced by sporty inter-



POWER PACKED: The Astra GTC has a 195 horsepower twin-turbo diesel engine

rior styling. Red-and-black leather interior, a small, flat-bottomed steering wheel and a short gearlever add to the involvement, while maintaining an excellent level of comfort.

A host of electronic systems are also on hand to help, ranging from an anti-lock braking system and cornering brake control, to emergency brake assist and an electronic parking braking with hill-start assist.

Rear parking sensors would be a useful addition, especially as rear vision is restricted by a letterbox-like rear screen. But while the GTC's exterior appearance might suggest it is less than practical, there is plenty of space for five and a useful boot.

Auto facts

Model: Vauxhall Astra GTC 2.0 CDT BiTurbo
Price: £24,175
Insurance group: 20 (1-50)
Fuel consum (Combined): 57.7mpg
Top speed: 131mph
Length: 446.6cm/176in
Width: 184cm/72.4in
Luggage capacity: 13.4 cu ft
Fuel tank capacity: 12.3 gallons/56l
CO2 emissions: 129g/km
Warranty: 100,000 miles

Eurodrivingtips

Breath-test warning for Euro motorists

ADVANCED driver Peter Rodger has issued a series of tips for drivers heading for France. Mr Rodger, chief examiner of the Institute of Advanced Motorists, said: "Driving abroad can be very different to driving at home, but preparation as always is the key."

• In France all drivers and motorcyclists (excluding mopeds) need to carry a breathalyser kit, with two disposable breathysers. The breathalyser must meet the NF standards (similar to the BSI here in the UK) and carry an NF certification. The French government

have indefinitely cancelled the fine for non compliance but you still have to have one.

- Remember too, that the drink-drive limit in France is lower than in the UK, 50mg compared to 80mg per 100ml of blood
- On-the-spot fines or 'deposits' in France are severe. An official receipt should always be issued. Vehicles parking contrary to regulations may be towed away and impounded.
- Holders of EU driving licences exceeding the speed limit by more than 40 km/h will have their licences confiscated on

the spot by the police.

- You are required to carry a warning triangle, reflective jacket, and convert your headlamps when driving in France. It is recommended that you carry spare light bulbs if you can fit them easily.
- Driving on the right-hand side of the road on unknown routes can be rather challenging. Take regular breaks, and always have a rest if you're getting sleepy.
- A child sitting in the front passenger seat must be at least 10 years old (or a baby up to nine months in a rear-facing child seat).

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■ AS part of the MX-5's 25th birthday celebrations, Mazda has released a limited edition version of its iconic roadster. The MX-5 Roadster Coupe 2.0-litre 25th Anniversary Limited Edition hits the showrooms in August and, to ensure its limited run status, just 1,000 individually numbered examples will be built. Crucially, in a testament to Britain's enduring love affair with open-topped motoring 750 units will be made available to UK customers, with number one unveiled at this year's Goodwood Festival of Speed.

■ LUXURY car maker Bentley has pulled the wraps off its new racecar-inspired Continental GT3-R. Taking inspiration from the firm's new GT3-spec competition machine, the GT3-R is said to blend high performance with Bentley's trademark luxury approach to motoring. The GT3-R will be a rare beast, too. Just 300 models will be made. There is no word on price yet.

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